

## Michaud Builds Support for EDA in Upcoming Funding Deal

Friday, April 01 2011

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Congressman Mike Michaud worked to get 41 of his colleagues to sign a letter he is sending today to congressional leaders and the House Appropriations Committee urging them to recognize the strong, bipartisan support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). In February, during consideration of the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (H.R.1), the House voted to include an amendment authored by Michaud to restore \$80 million in funding for the EDA by an overwhelming margin of 305 to 127.

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Congressman Mike Michaud worked to get 41 of his colleagues to sign a letter he is sending today to congressional leaders and the House Appropriations Committee urging them to recognize the strong, bipartisan support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). In February, during consideration of the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (H.R.1), the House voted to include an amendment authored by Michaud to restore \$80 million in funding for the EDA by an overwhelming margin of 305 to 127.

&ldquo;As House and Senate leaders negotiate a final funding bill, my colleagues and I want to make it clear to them that job-creating investments must be preserved,&rdquo; said Michaud, a long time member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure&rsquo;s Subcommittee on Economic Development. &ldquo;We must cut spending to get our fiscal house in order. But at a time when our states, local communities, and businesses continue to struggle, it&rsquo;s the wrong time to be cutting programs that are proven to boost the economy.&rdquo;

By law, EDA projects require a 50 percent local cost share, significant private sector investment, and must result in the creation and retention of jobs. From 2004 to 2008, EDA funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs nationwide. In Maine, EDA investments have created 2,539 jobs and retained 962 since 2006. Click [HERE](#) to read about three recent/in process EDA projects and how they impact jobs in Maine.

The full text of the letter Michaud and his colleagues sent today can be found below.

April 1, 2011

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you continue work on the measure that will fund the government for the remainder of FY 2011, we wanted to draw your attention to the strong support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) that was demonstrated during consideration of H.R.1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011.

Before final passage of H.R.1, the House of Representatives voted to include an amendment to restore \$80 million in funding for the EDA by an overwhelming margin of 305 to 127. Members of the House sent a clear message that funding for the EDA should continue at FY 2010 levels. Most importantly, the amendment received strong support from both sides of the aisle &ndash; 145 Republicans and 160 Democrats voted to support full funding for the agency.

As we continue to look for ways to support our ailing economy, we cannot afford to eliminate the programs that are proven job creators. Between 2004 and 2008, EDA funded projects directly led to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs. Estimates indicate that the public works program generates &ldquo;between 2.2 and 5 jobs per \$10,000 in incremental EDA funding, at a cost per job of between \$2,001 and \$4,611.&rdquo; These are highly impressive rates of return for any public economic development agency, whether at federal, state or local level.

With well over four million private sector jobs created and roughly \$150 billion in private sector investment leveraged since its inception, EDA has amassed an impressive record of assisting communities struggling to overcome both long-term economic challenges and sudden economic hardships. While we must work to reduce ineffective programs, it is short-sighted to target a program that provides significant financial and employment returns for our federal investments.

As the House continues to consider the best way to responsibly reduce federal spending and decrease our nation's debt, we sincerely hope that you will respect the overwhelming support for the EDA that was demonstrated during consideration of H.R.1, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

Member of Congress

# # #